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IN THE CLAIMS

From the previous amendment, amend claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-13 and add new claims 8 and 14 to 43, so that the new claim set reads as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A device for retaining a tongue in a predetermined position, the device comprising:

a flange, ~~adapted for insertion in a mouth,~~ having a first and second surface, said flange further including a protrusion extending from said first surface of said flange; and

an aperture formed through said first and second surfaces of said flange, wherein said protrusion covers said aperture, whereby said protrusion forms a hollow chamber, said hollow chamber being accessible through said aperture from said second side of said flange;

wherein said flange and said protrusion comprise an integrally molded one-piece body.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~flange and protrusion are formed as a unitary body~~ integrally molded one-piece body is formed by means of blow molding, injection molding, casting, vacuum forming or the like.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said aperture is adapted to receive a tongue.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~device~~ integrally molded one-piece body is constructed of a pliable material chosen from the group consisting of polyethylene, urethane, silicon, and polyvinylchloride.

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5. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein a vacuum may be formed within said protrusion by compressing said protrusion and inserting a tongue into said aperture.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said flange is ~~further~~ adapted to be received between a person's lips and frontal surface of said person's teeth or alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A device for retaining a tongue in a pre-determined position, the device comprising:

B. a flange having a first and second surface, an aperture, having a distal end and a proximal end, disposed within said flange wherein said aperture further includes walls extending from said first surface of said flange and from said distal end of said aperture, said walls forming a bulb protruding from said first surface of said flange, wherein said bulb forms a chamber in communication with said aperture and being adapted to receive a tongue and wherein said flange ~~and said bulb are formed of a unitary body~~ proximal end of said aperture is contiguous with said second surface of said flange.

8. **(New)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein said flange and said bulb comprise an integrally molded one-piece body.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein a vacuum is formed in said bulb by compressing said walls and inserting a tongue into said aperture.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein said walls form a smooth continuous surface with said first surface of said flange.

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11. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein said flange is adapted to be received between a person's lips and frontal surface of said person's teeth or alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The device according to Claim 7 8, wherein said device integrally molded one-piece body is constructed of one of the materials selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, urethane, polyethylene and silicon.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method of retaining a tongue in a predetermined position, the method comprising:

forming a vacuum within a tongue retention device by squeezing walls of a protrusion extending from a flange of said tongue retention device;

inserting a tongue through an aperture formed in said flange, wherein said tongue is received by said protrusion;

releasing said walls, thereby forming a vacuum within said protrusion; and

positioning said ~~tongue retention device~~ flange between a user's lips and frontal surface of said user's teeth.

14. **(New)** The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said flange is positioned between a user's lips and frontal surface of said user's alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

15. **(New)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein said proximal end of said aperture is radiused for providing a smooth continuous surface with said second surface of said flange.

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16. (New) The device according to Claim 7, wherein said distal end of said aperture is radiused for providing a smooth continuous surface with said walls of said bulb.

17. (New) A device for retaining a tongue in a predetermined position, the device comprising:

a bulb having a closed end and an open end, said bulb forming a hollow chamber for receiving a tongue through said open end; and

a flange extending outwardly from said open end, said flange to be received between a person's lips and frontal surface of said person's teeth.

18. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said flange and said bulb comprise an integrally molded one-piece body.

19. (New) The device according to Claim 18, wherein said integrally molded one-piece body is formed by means of blow molding, injection molding, casting, vacuum forming or the like.

20. (New) The device according to Claim 18, wherein said integrally molded one-piece body is constructed of a material having a thickness between about 0.010 inches and about 0.060 inches.

21. (New) The device according to Claim 20, wherein said material has the thickness between about 0.025 inches and about 0.040 inches.

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22. (New) The device according to claim 18, wherein said integrally molded one-piece body is formed having a constant thickness across it's entire cross-section.

23. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said flange is pliable.

24. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said flange is adjustable to fit any size mouth.

25. (New) The device according to Claim 18, wherein said integrally molded one-piece body is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, urethane, silicon, and polyvinylchloride.

26. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein a vacuum may be formed within said bulb by compressing said bulb and inserting said tongue into said open end.

27. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said flange is adapted to be received between a person's lips and frontal surface of said person's alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

28. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said hollow chamber has a pre-determined volume such that only a pre-determined amount of a person's tongue will be received in said hollow chamber.

29. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said hollow chamber is sized and shaped to snugly receive a forward section of a person's tongue.

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30. (New) The device according to Claim 17, wherein said open end is elongated in shape for receiving a person's tongue.

31. (New) The device according to Claim 17, whereby when said flange is received between a person's lips and frontal surface of a person's teeth, said device does not extend into said person's oral cavity.

32. (New) A device for retaining a tongue in a predetermined position, the device comprising:

B. a flange having a first and second surface, said flange further including a protrusion extending from said first surface of said flange; and

an aperture formed through said first and second surfaces of said flange, wherein said protrusion covers said aperture, whereby said protrusion forms a hollow chamber, said hollow chamber being accessible through said aperture from said second side of said flange;

wherein said flange is sized and shaped to be comfortably received between a person's lips and frontal surface of a person's teeth or alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

33. (New) The device according to claim 32, wherein said flange is curved to fit a person's jaw line.

34. (New) The device according to Claim 32, wherein said flange is constructed of a material having a thickness between about 0.010 inches and about 0.060 inches.

35. (New) The device according to Claim 34, wherein said material has the thickness between about 0.025 inches and about 0.040 inches.

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36. (New) The device according to Claim 32, wherein said flange and said protrusion comprise an integrally molded one-piece body.

37. (New) The device according to Claim 36, wherein said integrally molded one-piece body is formed by means of blow molding, injection molding, casting, vacuum forming or the like.

38. (New) The device according to Claim 32, wherein said aperture is adapted to receive a tongue.

39. (New) The device according to Claim 36, wherein said integrally molded one-piece body is constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, urethane, silicon, and polyvinylchloride.

40. (New) A device for retaining a tongue in a predetermined position, the device comprising:

a flange having a first and second surface, said flange further including a protrusion extending from said first surface of said flange; and

an aperture formed through said first and second surfaces of said flange, wherein said protrusion covers said aperture, whereby said protrusion forms a hollow chamber, said hollow chamber being accessible through said aperture from said second side of said flange;

wherein said flange is constructed of a pliable material to be comfortably received between a person's lips and frontal surface of a person's teeth or alveolar ridges if teeth are absent.

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41. (New) A device according to claim 40, wherein said pliable material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, urethane, polyethylene and silicon.

P, 42. (New) The device according to Claim 40, wherein said pliable material has a thickness between about 0.010 inches and about 0.060 inches.

43. (New) The device according to Claim 42, wherein said pliable material has the thickness between about 0.025 inches and about 0.040 inches.
